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Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
International Film Festival

Report on the carbon footprint measurement of San Sebastian Festival's 72nd edition 2024

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01. Introduction

For the fourth year running, the San Sebastian Film Festival has issued its yearly sustainability report. This report gives detailed results of the carbon footprint measurement and an assessment of the Festival's environmental sustainability at its 72nd edition, running from 20-28 September 2024. The data have been provided by the Festival and contrasted by Creast.

Emissions during the 72nd edition of the Festival came to a total of **2,574,079.65 kg CO_2 eq**. These emissions have been fully compensated for through the Gipuzkoa Voluntary Carbon Fund, making this a carbon neutral edition. That said, and as we will explain in detail during the report, the mobility of those attending the Festival remains the main issue on which the event must focus.

Carbon footprint refers to the emissions produced by a project, company or person during an activity. In this case, we refer to the emissions generated by the Festival as an event. Said emissions are divided into seven categories to enable identification of the main emission sources during the measurement period.

During the dates of the study, an exhaustive control was made of the data collected in order to correctly measure the Festival's carbon footprint and apply efficient measures to reduce related greenhouse gas emissions (GGE).

Below we give an analysis of each significant impact within the categories studied with a view to measuring the carbon footprint.

The aim of this report is, first and foremost, to document the calculation described. To calculate the CO_2 equivalent emitted by this functional unit, we have established the ground rules of the analysis, studying the work habits of the professionals involved in organising and implementing the Festival, as well as the procedures potentially representing the highest influence on emissions.

The idea is to enable Creast to identify opportunities of improvement and recommend the introduction of procedures and best practices to help the San Sebastian Film Festival improve its sustainability.

02. Methodology

2.1 What does carbon footprint mean?

Greenhouse Gases (GG) are gaseous constituents released into the atmosphere both naturally and as a result of human activity. Greenhouse gases are essential for keeping the planet at a manageable temperature, given that they trap and absorb sunlight; however, their rising and continuous emission as a result of human activity has led to a rapid rise in the planet's mean global temperature.

The **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) recognises six types of greenhouse gase: carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) (Image 1).

To monitor these gases, the Spanish Emissions Inventory System draws up a yearly Greenhouse Gas Inventory indicating their anthropogenic causes and their absorption by carbon sinks.

(Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, 2021).

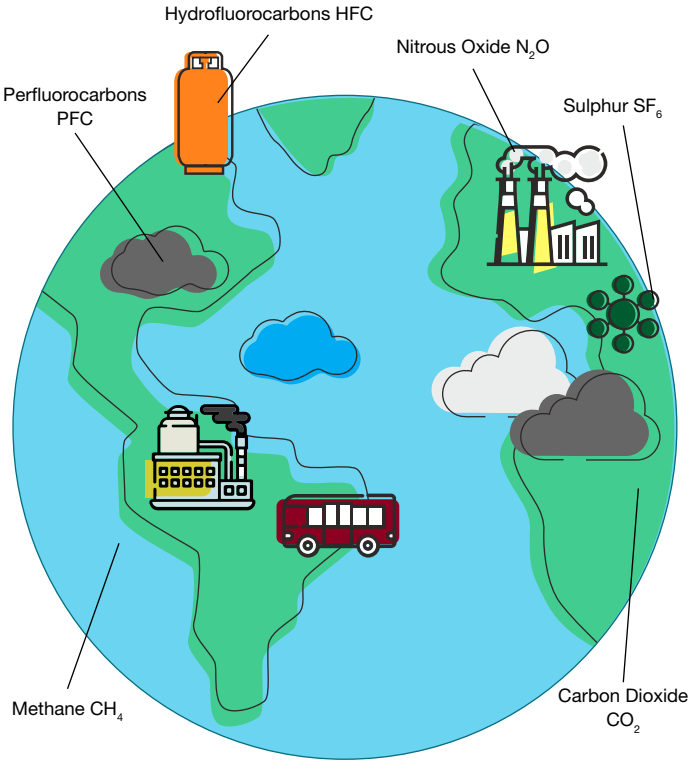


Image 1. Greenhouse Gases. Own source.

The carbon footprint linked to any project, association or company indicates the greenhouse gases emitted during a certain period of time. The calculation includes both direct and indirect emissions. We can therefore confirm that the carbon footprint serves as an environmental indicator.

(Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, 2022).

To calculate the carbon footprint in terms of CO_2 equivalent, we follow the **GHG Protocol** according to the official emission factors of each country – MITECO in Spain – completing these with those stipulated by the UNFCCC in the categories for which no official factor exists. The Creast methodology covers the full sustainability cycle: measurement, reduction and compensation, applied to all phases. Creast archives the data and traceability of evidence as per ISO 14.067:2019 and said information is available for consultation by our clients in the Creast cloud, subject to compliance with strict security measures.

The procedure for calculating the carbon footprint of an organisation or product as a result of its activity includes the following steps:

1) Defining the limits.
2) Identifying the consumption and its categories.
3) Calculating the emissions.
4) Estimating their reduction (where applicable).

2.2 Defining the limits

Below we indicate the limits established (Image 2) to determine the type of Greenhouse Gas emissions included in the measurement and those that are excluded.

- **Direct or Scope 1 emissions.** This point is applicable given that emissions are generated in the system at hand due to the use of equipment and emissions involving the consumption of fossil fuels. This point also includes potential fugitive emissions such as those used in air conditioning and cooling equipment. Existing documents confirm that no leaks of this kind have been recorded during the measurement period.

02. Methodology

- **Indirect or Scope 2 emissions.** This point is applicable given that the system at hand includes emissions arising from the consumption of electricity required to proceed with its activity.

- **Indirect transport or Scope 3 emissions.** This point is applicable given that the system at hand includes emissions produced due to transport and mobility, with the exception of sub-contracted transport initiatives.

- **Indirect or Scope 3 emissions of the products and services consumed.** This point is applicable given that the system at hand includes emissions produced by the transport or mobility of persons. It is also applicable to services supplied, such as catering and accommodation, and to waste generated.

EXCLUSIONS

- **Direct emissions from products or services sold.** This point is not applicable due to the fact that the use to be made of such services by the Festival does not generate significant emissions. In the case of Creast, for example, the company issues a report which it delivers or provides to the client. The emissions arising from the consultancy work carried out for the Festival by Creast would not therefore be attributable to the event.

- **Direct emissions from external products or services in its overall value chain.** This is not applicable given that we cannot control the requirements of our provider's value chain. For example, the activity of the providers used by the catering service to create its products.

- **Indirect emissions not previously included.** This point is not applicable given that there has been no identification of direct emissions of a nature or category other than those already mentioned for this report.

2.3 Identifying the items consumed and their categories

Using the records and physical evidence (invoices, activity description, questionnaires) provided by the client, all consumption to have taken place during the period in consideration is identified and divided into seven different categories: mobility, energy, accommodation, catering, materials, waste and water. These seven categories are in turn divided into the type of emission mentioned in the above point.

CO_2eq = Consumption x Emission factor

2.4 Calculating emissions

The **carbon footprint** is calculated based on the CO_2 equivalent. This is a measurement of all Greenhouse Gases; in other words, it is the equivalence of the gases emitted. It is obtained from a formula necessarily requiring the gas mass and its global warming potential (each gas has its own potential).

The CO_2 eq emissions are obtained from the activity data multiplied by the specific emission factor for each specific activity and area.

The **Emission Factor (EF)** is the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted for each unit of the "activity data" parameter. Said EFs are obtained from the MITECO (Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge) or the UNFCCC (United Nations).

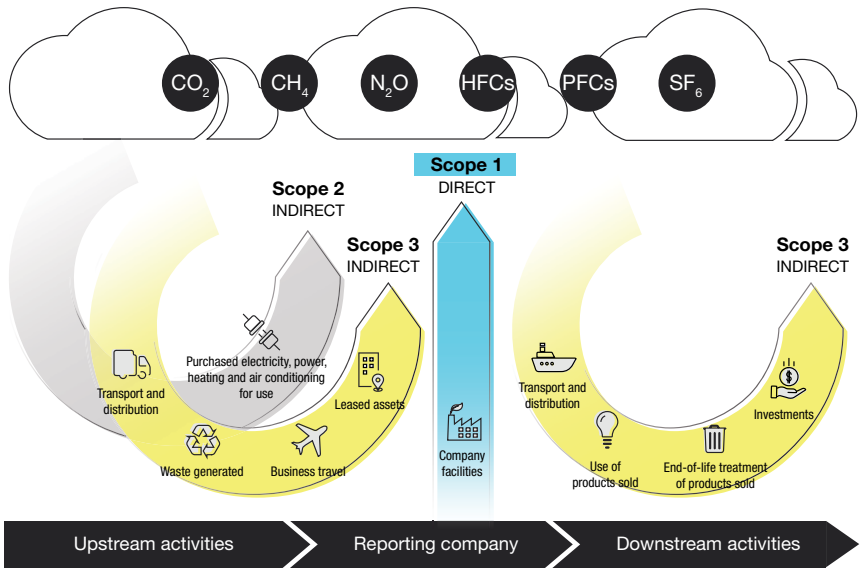


Image 2-How the scopes are broken down. Own source.

03. Tool

Creast has developed its own methodology and calculation software whose mission is to help the entertainment industry to achieve zero emissions.

Thanks to the implementation of the software in more than five thousand productions film, advertising and event productions in less than four years, the four years, the calculation engine has been evolved and perfected to obtain calculation engine has been evolved and refined to obtain the most rigorous carbon footprint measurements.

The Creast technology is currently used by the leading film festivals and awards boards, as well as by the majority of film production companies and numerous audiovisual incubator programmes. The technology has recently been introduced to film distribution and screenings, where it is used by the big cinema chains and distribution companies. All of this activity makes it possible to compile global knowledge of the industry, dynamically enriching the precision of the calculations made and providing input for the Big Data collected, thus completing certain kinds of data that cannot be obtained from events and productions, always ensuring full coverage of the carbon footprint.

The Creast software is currently completing standard **UNE-EN ISO 14.067:2019** on *Greenhouse gases. Carbon footprint of products. Requirements and guidelines for quantification*, where it is in the final stages of the certification process, thereby guaranteeing the very highest standards of quality in the measurement criteria and processes.

The measurements made using the Creast software are stored in the cloud – together with traceability of the data and calculation algorithms, all saved in observance of high security criteria – where they are exclusively available for clients.

04. Results and comparison

The results of measuring the carbon footprint of the San Sebastian Film Festival show a total of **2,574.08 T CO_2 eq**.

Compared to last year, we can see how total emissions have considerably dropped, from 3,556.49 T to 2,574.08 T CO_2eq. Broken down by categories, we can see that:

Accommodation:
2023: 1,570,035.96 $KgCO_2$
2024: 550,886 $KgCO_2$
Difference: In 2024, the carbon footprint of accommodation is significantly lower. This is due to an updating of the Emission Factors, from 20.07 kg CO_2eq to 7 kg CO_2eq/night.

Transport:
2023: 1,576,761.21 $KgCO_2$
2024: 1,753,890.04 $KgCO_2$
Difference: Transport shows a slightly higher footprint in 2024. Despite still being the largest category, its footprint has only slightly increased.

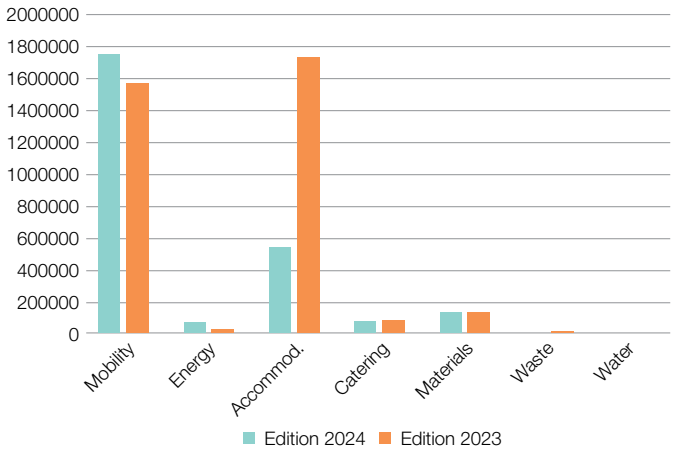
Materials:
2023: 123,718.92 $KgCO_2$
2024: 123,590.04 $KgCO_2$
Difference: The carbon footprint of materials is almost the same for both years, with a slight drop in 2024 thanks to the rental of materials and the reduction in the number of posters printed.

Food:
2023: 77,829.79 $KgCO_2$
2024: 76,514.13 $KgCO_2$
Difference: The carbon footprint of food is almost identical for both years, with a slight drop in 2024.

Waste:
2023: 7,073.13 $KgCO_2$
2024: 4,271.96 $KgCO_2$
Difference: Waste figures have vastly improved in 2024, with a considerable reduction in CO_2 emissions.

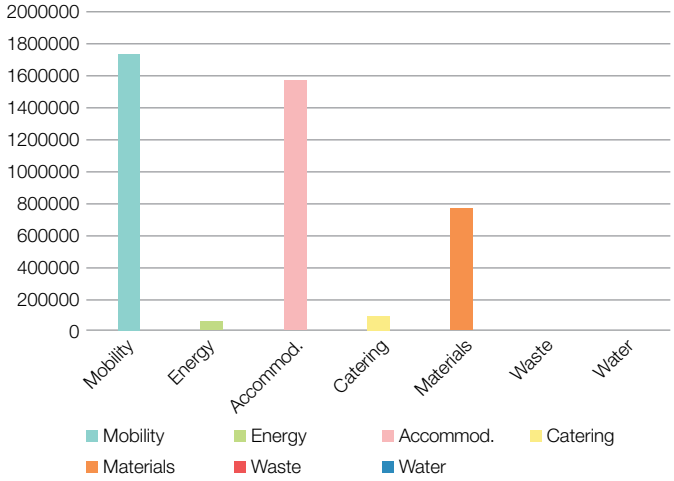
Water:
2023: 456.16 $KgCO_2$
2024: 337.51 $KgCO_2$
Difference: The carbon footprint of water has also dropped in 2024, although only marginally.

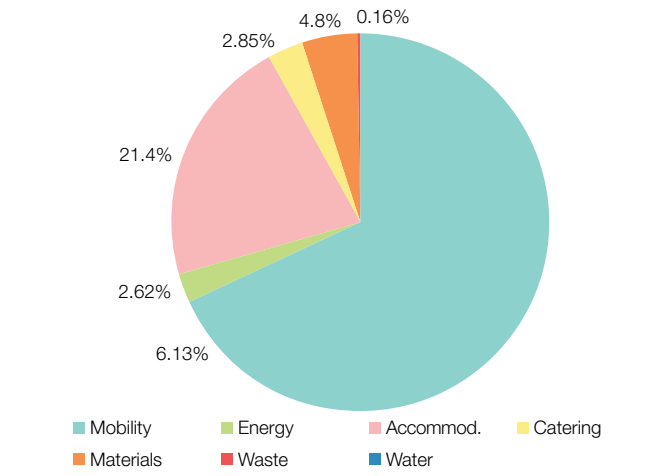
The following graph shows a comparison between the years 2023 and 2024:



Graph 1: Footprint reduction measures applied during the San Sebastian Festival shows how emissions have dropped in 5 of the 7 categories measured, having generated a reduction of 27.6% which translates into 982,413.9 kg CO_2eq compared to the 2023 edition.

ATA OBTAINED ON TOTAL EMISSIONS OF THE SAN SEBASTIAN FILM FESTIVAL





05. Degrees of uncertainty

Calculating the carbon footprint and its scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions can result in widely differing variations and uncertainties, meaning that availability of the data and its collection plays a key part in achieving reliable results and a quality study.

Reducing the degree of uncertainty of the emissions (understood as a combination of the uncertainties of the emission factors and the corresponding activity data) is a concern for companies aiming to meet the climate targets of mitigating scope 3 emissions.

Below are the ranges defined in order to assess the uncertainty of the values used to calculate the carbon footprint of this report. This classification has been made based on criteria enabling us to assess the quality of the data. It is subsequently applied to the activity data of the company study.

Ranges	Description
A	Very good data quality. Accounting (invoices, delivery notes…) or legal records. Audited or verified by an independent third party.
B	Good data quality. All necessary information regarding the activity data is complete, based on internal records, externally audited.
C	Sufficient data quality. The information on the activity data is not obtained directly, but can be calculated from other data; either that or, if said data is missing information, it can be calculated based on extrapolations or comparison with other data sources.
D	Insufficient data quality. The information on the activity data is not complete or reliable, although it does permit a reasonable estimate to be made.

RANGE OF UNCERTAINTY BY CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO HOW INFORMATION IS OBTAINED.

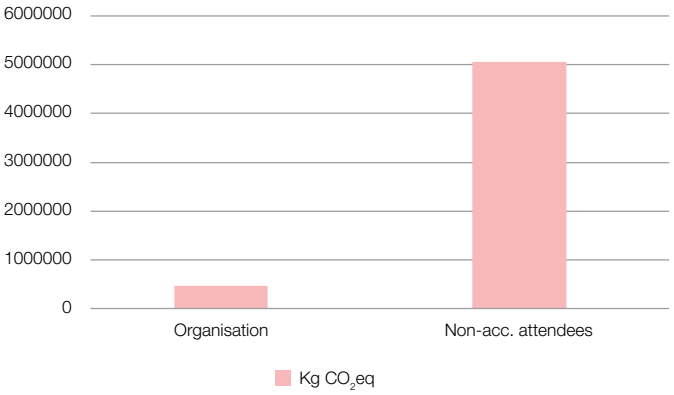
- **Mobility:** an estimate is made based on the information obtained from an excel spread sheet and invoices. C-type data.
- **Energy:** the information is obtained from an excel spread sheet and invoices. C-type data.
- **Materials:** weighting of the materials category is obtained from analysis and study of the product composition, deducing its weight. C-type data.
- **Accommodation:** nights are calculated on the basis of accommodation spread sheets. C-type data.
- **Waste:** the information is obtained by extrapolating data obtained from weighing the packaging of the catering items consumed, disposable materials and the spread sheet provided by the organisation. C-type data.
- **Catering:** the information is directly obtained from the consumption indicated on invoices, classified according to its corresponding category. Low uncertainty. A-type data.
- **Water:** is taken directly from the information provided. C-type data.

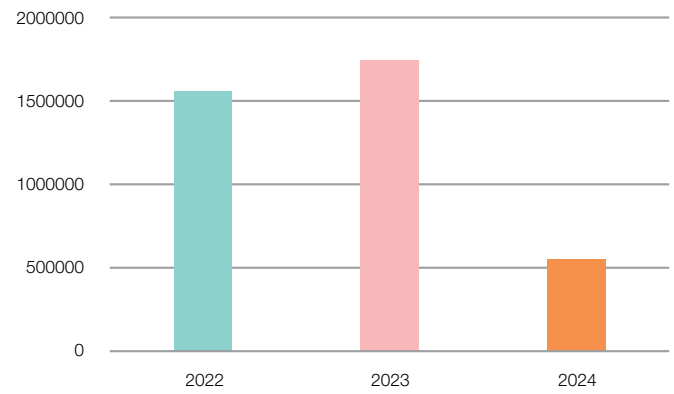
06. Data by category

Accommodation

In the accommodation category we have a total of 550,886 kg CO_2eq generated. This figure can be divided into non-accredited attendees, an estimated figure, and all of the hotels and apartments managed by the organisation. This gives us the following data:

- Organisation: 46,886 kg CO_2eq
- Non-accredited attendees: 504,000 kg CO_2eq.

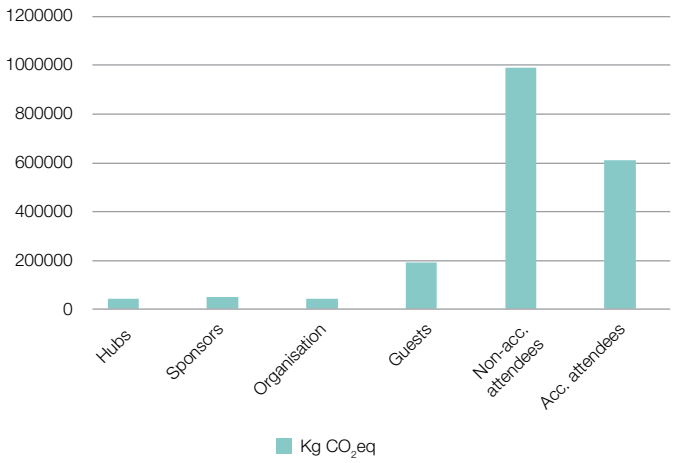


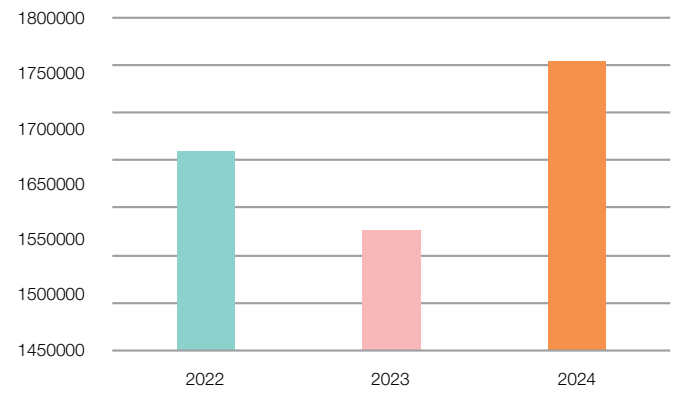


Mobility

Mobility emissions are the highest of all, and have therefore been divided into 6 sub-categories, as follows:

- Hubs: 129.93 kg CO_2eq.
- Sponsors: 11,225.38 kg CO_2eq.
- Organisation: 3,420.87 kg CO_2eq.
- Guests: 153,128.81 kg CO_2eq.
- Non-accredited attendees: 992,116.98 kg CO_2eq.
- Accredited attendees: 593,868.07 kg CO_2eq.





06. Data by category

Energy

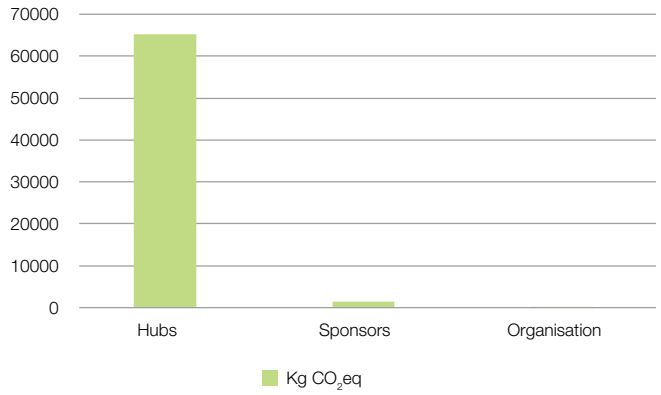
In this category, energy has been divided into three parts: hubs, sponsors and organisation, with the following emission data:

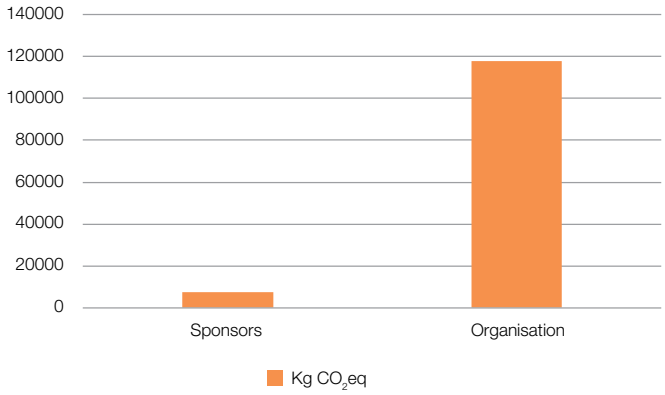
- Hubs: 66,086.41 kg CO_2eq.
- Sponsors: 1,353.04 kg CO_2eq.
- Organisation: 125.32 kg CO_2eq.

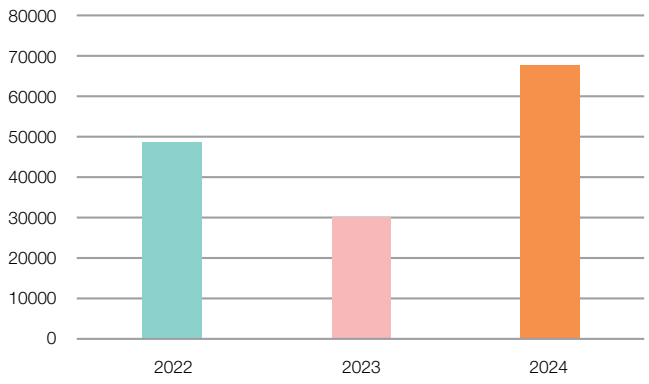
Materials

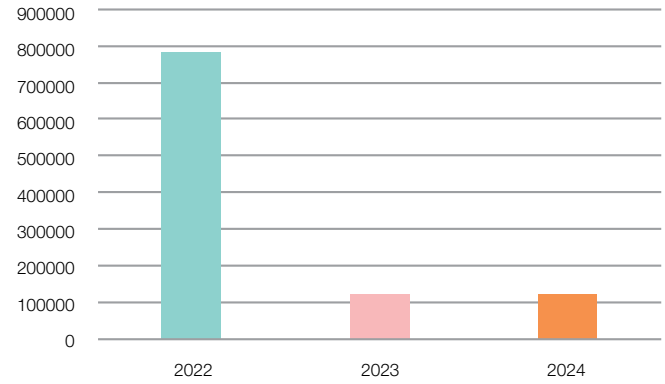
Materials have only been divided into two sub-categories: sponsors and organisation. The corresponding figures are as follows:

- Sponsors: 4,943.6 kg CO_2eq.
- Organisation: 118,646.5 kg CO_2eq.









06. Data by category

Catering

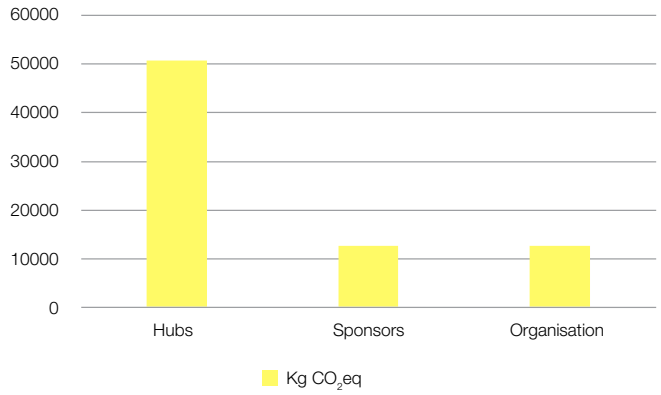
The total catering emissions came to 76,514.13 kg CO_2eq, divided into hubs, sponsors and organisation. The data are as follows:

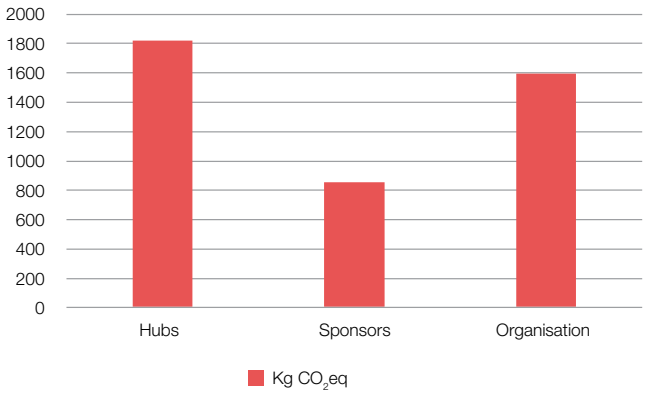
- Hubs: 50,999.31 kg CO_2eq.
- Sponsors: 11,235.7 kg CO_2eq.
- Organisation: 11,304.3 kg CO_2eq.

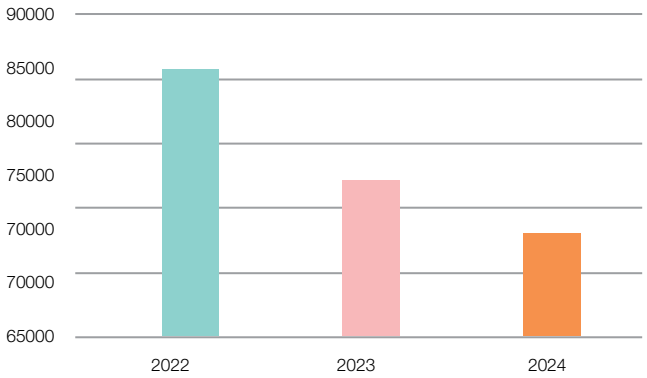
Waste

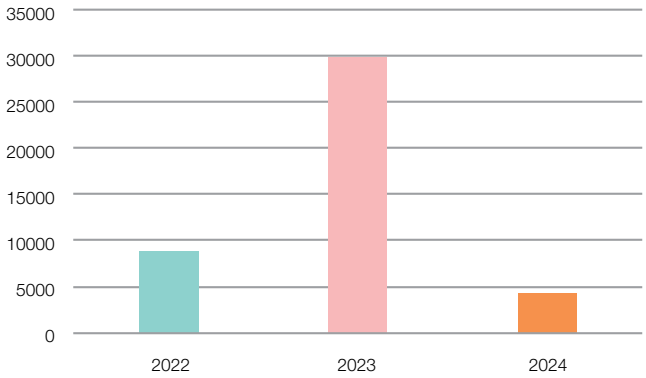
The waste for this measurement was calculated based on Creast's Big Data; according to the events organised and to the waste generated by workers and sponsors, which is why the figures are divided into three areas, with the following results:

- Hubs: 1,822.99 kg CO_2eq.
- Sponsors: 854.27 kg CO_2eq.
- Organisation: 1,594.7 kg CO_2eq.







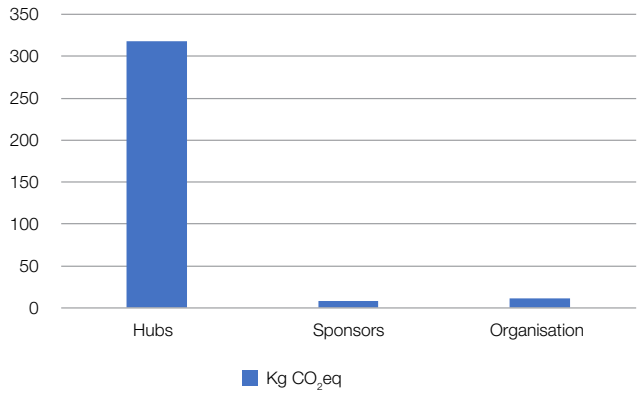


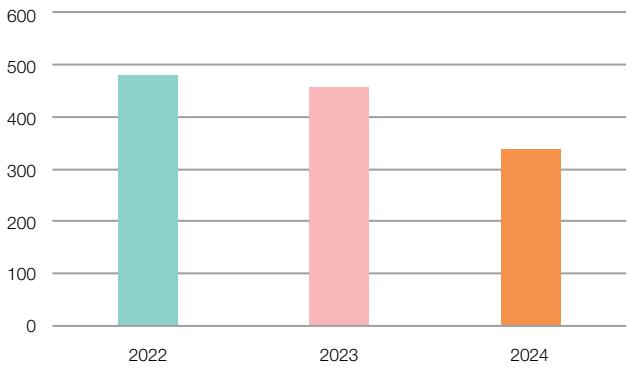
06. Data by category

Water

Water consumption has also been divided into hubs, sponsors and organisation, showing the hubs to be the places where most water is used given their activities and participation numbers. The figures obtained are as follows:

- Hubs: 318.44 kg CO_2eq.
- Sponsors: 8.12 kg CO_2eq.
- Organisation: 10.95 kg de CO_2eq.





07. Compensation

Calculating the carbon footprint is the first step in raising awareness on the need to reduce and compensate for greenhouse gases generated by the professional activity of any business or corporation. This endeavour has allowed the Festival to draw up a road map enabling it to apply a variety of reduction measures, as well as changes in the work process to achieve a reduction in its footprint. In addition, the Festival has compensated for 100% of its emissions through the Gipuzkoa Voluntary Carbon Fund, managed with Naturklima. Thanks to this, we can now say that the Festival's 72nd edition was a NEUTRAL event.

08. Final conclusions

The San Sebastian Festival emitted a total of **2,574,079.65 kg CO_2 eq** during its 72nd edition.

It has been possible to obtain a fairly precise measurement thanks to the invoices issued by the Festival and other information obtained from the excel spread sheets provided. We must stress that the category to have generated most emissions during the year has been mobility, followed by accommodation. In general terms, emissions have dropped by 27.6% compared to last year.